

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

35 U.S.C. § 112:

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claim 5 has been amended to ensure compliance with the statute. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-014656, hereinafter Horiuchi. In response to that rejection, claim 1 has been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6 and to indicate that an output shaft is mounted to the flexible external gear boss and rotatably located inside the hollow rotational shaft of the motor. According to a preferred exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the output shaft is illustrated in Figure 1 with reference numeral 70, and it is secured to the boss 23 and extends inside the hollow rotational shaft 41 of the motor. Such a structure is clearly not taught or suggested by Horiuchi, which does not include an output shaft that extends through the hollow shaft 7 of the Horiuchi device.

One benefit of the invention as defined in claim 1 is that the output shaft is accessible from both axial ends of the actuator. See, e.g., page 7, lines 5-7. This feature of the present invention is set forth in newly added dependent claim 7. Since claim 7 depends from claim 1, claim 7 is also patentable over the cited prior art.

Claims 2-5 also depend from claim 1, and are thus also patentable over the cited prior art. In particular, the feature of claim 3 is also not taught or suggested by Horiuchi. According to a preferred exemplary embodiment of the claimed "integrally formed single component", the Examiner's attention is directed to element 100 in Figure 2.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims are now patentable over the cited prior art.


The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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By: 
William C. Rowland
Registration No. 30,888

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620